



Legislative Bulletin.....August 3, 2007

Contents:

H.R. 3087— A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress reports on the status of planning for the redeployment of the Armed Forces from Iraq and to require the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and appropriate senior officials of the Department of Defense to meet with Congress to brief Congress on the matters contained in the reports

Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: (Unavailable on line at press time)

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:
Unknown

H.R. 3087— A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress reports on the status of planning for the redeployment of the Armed Forces from Iraq and to require the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and appropriate senior officials of the Department of Defense to meet with Congress to brief Congress on the matters contained in the reports (*Tanner, D-TN / Abercrombie, D-HI*)

Order of Business: The bill is reportedly scheduled to be considered on Friday, August 3rd, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. However, since suspensions are normally

allowed to be considered Monday through Wednesday only, the House first must pass a rule ([H.Res. 600](#)), making in order certain bills (including H.R. 3087) under suspension of the rules later in the week.

Summary: H.R. 3087 would require the Secretary of Defense, not later than 60 days after the enactment of this legislation, and every 90 days thereafter, to submit to Congress a report on the status of planning for the withdrawal of the U.S. Armed Forces from Iraq. The reports would have to be unclassified, but each could contain a classified annex. Two weeks after each status report is filed, senior Defense Department officials would have to meet with the congressional defense committees to brief them on the contents of the reports.

These reporting and briefing requirements would terminate once the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees a certification in writing that the Armed Forces are no longer primarily engaged in a combat mission in Iraq.

The bill also contains the following four findings:

- “The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243), enacted into law on October 16, 2002, authorized the President to use the Armed Forces as the President determined necessary and appropriate in order to defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by the Government of Iraq at that time;
- “The Government of Iraq which was in power at the time the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 was enacted into law has been removed from power and its leader indicted, tried, convicted, and executed by the new freely-elected democratic Government of Iraq;
- “The current Government of Iraq does not pose a threat to the United States or its interests; and
- “After more than four years of valiant efforts by members of the Armed Forces and United States civilians, the Government of Iraq must now be responsible for Iraq’s future course.”

The bill also contains several senses of Congress regarding the ongoing need for contingency planning.

Additional Background: The original version of this legislation would have required the President to have created and submitted to Congress a comprehensive strategy for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. After protests from within the Democrat Caucus, this legislation was amended to require status reports and briefings—not a comprehensive withdrawal strategy.

Committee Action: On July 18, 2007, the bill was referred to the Armed Services Committee, which, on July 27th, marked up and ordered the bill reported to the full House.

Possible Conservative Concerns: Some conservatives may be concerned about the logic of the “findings” above and that this legislation implies that the U.S. withdrawal from Iraq should begin soon.

Administration Position: A Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) was not available at press time.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no significant expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: Though the bill contains no earmarks, and the committee report is not yet available, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

Constitutional Authority: A committee report (House Report 110-283) citing constitutional authority was not available at press time.

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